

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE: NATIONAL FOOTBALL
LEAGUE PLAYERS' CONCUSSION
INJURY LITIGATION

No. 12-md-2323 (AB)

MDL No. 2323

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

**Plaintiffs' Master Administrative Long-
Form Complaint and (if applicable)**

Joseph Sweet, et al.

v. National Football League [et al.],

No. 2:12-cv-07214-AB

SHORT FORM COMPLAINT

**IN RE: NATIONAL FOOTBALL
LEAGUE PLAYERS' CONCUSSION
INJURY LITIGATION**

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

SHORT FORM COMPLAINT

1. Plaintiff(s), Samuel Blackwell, (and, if applicable, Plaintiff's Spouse) _____, bring(s) this civil action as a related action in the matter entitled IN RE: NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYERS' CONCUSSION INJURY LITIGATION, MDL No. 2323.

2. Plaintiff (and, if applicable, Plaintiff's Spouse) is/are filing this short form complaint as required by this Court's Case Management Order No. 2, filed April 26, 2012.

3. Plaintiff (and, if applicable Plaintiff's Spouse), incorporate(s) by reference the allegations (as designated below) of the Master Administrative Long-Form Complaint, as may be amended, as if fully set forth at length in this Short Form Complaint.

4. [Fill in if applicable] Plaintiff is filing this case in a representative capacity as the _____ of _____, having been duly appointed as the _____ by the _____ Court of _____. (Cross out sentence below if not applicable.) Copies of the Letters of Administration/Letters Testamentary for a wrongful death claim are annexed hereto if such Letters are required for the commencement of such a claim by the Probate, Surrogate or other appropriate court of the jurisdiction of the decedent.

5. Plaintiff, Samuel Blackwell, is a resident and citizen of Hampton, VA and claims damages as set forth below.

6. [Fill in if applicable] Plaintiff's spouse, _____, is a resident and citizen of Hampton, VA, and claims damages as a result of loss of consortium proximately caused by the harm suffered by her Plaintiff husband/decedent.

7. On information and belief, the Plaintiff (or decedent) sustained repetitive, traumatic sub-concussive and/or concussive head impacts during NFL games and/or practices. On information and belief, Plaintiff suffers (or decedent suffered) from symptoms of brain injury caused by the repetitive, traumatic sub-concussive and/or concussive head impacts the Plaintiff (or decedent) sustained during NFL games and/or practices. On information and belief, the Plaintiff's (or decedent's) symptoms arise from injuries that are latent and have developed and continue to develop over time.

8. [Fill in if applicable] The original complaint by Plaintiff(s) in this matter was filed in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles on October 25, 2012. If the case is remanded, it should be remanded to the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles Central District.

9. Plaintiff claims damages as a result of [check all that apply]:

- ☒ Injury to Herself/Himself
- ☐ Injury to the Person Represented
- ☐ Wrongful Death
- ☐ Survivorship Action
- ☒ Economic Loss
- ☐ Loss of Services
- ☐ Loss of Consortium

10. [Fill in if applicable] As a result of the injuries to her husband,
Samuel Blackwell, Plaintiff's Spouse, _____, suffers from a
loss of consortium, including the following injuries:

- ☐ loss of marital services;
- ☐ loss of companionship, affection or society;
- ☐ loss of support; and
- ☐ monetary losses in the form of unreimbursed costs she has had to expend for the
health care and personal care of her husband.

11. [Check if applicable] ☒ Plaintiff (and Plaintiff's Spouse, if applicable)
reserve(s) the right to object to federal jurisdiction.

DEFENDANTS

12. Plaintiff (and Plaintiff's Spouse, if applicable) bring(s) this case against the following Defendants in this action [check all that apply]:

- ☒ National Football League
- ☒ NFL Properties, LLC
- ☒ Riddell, Inc.
- ☒ All American Sports, Inc. (d/b/a Riddell Sports Group, Inc.)
- ☒ Riddell Sports Group, Inc.
- ☒ Easton-Bell Sports, Inc.
- ☒ Easton-Bell Sports, LLC
- ☒ EB Sports Corporation
- ☒ RBG Holdings Corporation

13. [Check where applicable] As to each of the Riddell Defendants referenced above, the claims asserted are: ☒ design defect; ☒ informational defect; ☐ manufacturing defect.

14. [Check if applicable] ☒ The Plaintiff (or decedent) wore one or more helmets designed and/or manufactured by the Riddell Defendants during one or more years Plaintiff (or decedent) played in the NFL and/or AFL.

15. Plaintiff played in [check if applicable] ☒ the National Football League ("NFL") and/or in [check if applicable] ☐ the American Football League ("AFL") during

1982-1987, 1987-1990, 1991 _____ for the following teams: _____

Philadelphia Eagles, Pittsburgh Steelers, and the Seattle Seahawks, respectively.

_____.

CAUSES OF ACTION

16. Plaintiff herein adopts by reference the following Counts of the Master Administrative Long-Form Complaint, along with the factual allegations incorporated by reference in those Counts [check all that apply]:

- ☒ Count I (Action for Declaratory Relief – Liability (Against the NFL))
- ☒ Count II (Medical Monitoring (Against the NFL))
- ☐ Count III (Wrongful Death and Survival Actions (Against the NFL))
- ☒ Count IV (Fraudulent Concealment (Against the NFL))
- ☒ Count V (Fraud (Against the NFL))
- ☒ Count VI (Negligent Misrepresentation (Against the NFL))
- ☐ Count VII (Negligence Pre-1968 (Against the NFL Defendants))
- ☒ Count VIII (Negligence Post-1968 (Against the NFL Defendants))
- ☒ Count IX (Negligence 1987-1993 (Against the NFL Defendants))
- ☒ Count X (Negligence Post-1994 (Against the NFL Defendants))

- ☐ Count XI (Loss of Consortium (Against the NFL and Riddell Defendants))
- ☒ Count XII (Negligent Hiring (Against the NFL))
- ☒ Count XIII (Negligent Retention (Against the NFL))
- ☒ Count XIV (Strict Liability for Design Defect (Against the Riddell Defendants))
- ☐ Count XV (Strict Liability for Manufacturing Defect (Against the Riddell Defendants))
- ☒ Count XVI (Failure to Warn (Against the Riddell Defendants))
- ☒ Count XVII (Negligence (Against the Riddell Defendants))
- ☒ Count XVIII (Civil Conspiracy/Fraudulent Concealment (Against NFL Defendants))

17. Plaintiff asserts the following additional causes of action [write in or attach]:

SEE ATTACHMENT "A" TO THIS COMPLAINT.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff (and Plaintiff's Spouse, if applicable) pray(s) for judgment as follows:

- A. An award of compensatory damages, the amount of which will be determined at trial;
- B. For punitive and exemplary damages as applicable;
- C. For all applicable statutory damages of the state whose laws will govern this action;
- D. For medical monitoring, whether denominated as damages or in the form of equitable relief;
- E. For an award of attorneys' fees and costs;
- F. An award of prejudgment interest and costs of suit; and
- G. An award of such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMANDED

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38, Plaintiff(s) hereby demand(s) a trial by jury.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

s/ Graham LippSmith

Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)
Jason E. Luckasevic, Esquire
Goldberg, Persky & White, P.C.
1030 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Telephone: (412) 471-3980
- 7 - Facsimile: (412) 471-8308

and

GIRARDI | K E E S E

Thomas Girardi (California Bar No. 36603)

Graham LippSmith (California Bar No. 221984)

1126 Wilshire Boulevard

Los Angeles, California 90017

Telephone: (213) 977-0211

Facsimile: (213)481-1554

RUSSOMANNO & BORRELLO, P.A.

Herman J. Russomanno (Florida Bar No. 240346)

Robert J. Borrello (Florida Bar No. 764485)

150 West Flagler Street - PH 2800

Miami, FL 33130

Telephone: (305) 373-2101

Facsimile: (305) 373-2103

ATTACHMENT “A”
TO
SHORT FORM COMPLAINT

COUNT XIX
NEGLIGENCE - Monopolist
(As Against the NFL)

1. The NFL, by and through its monopoly power, has historically had a duty to invoke rules that protect the health and safety of its players, including Plaintiffs, and the public.

2. As a monopoly, the NFL has a duty to protect the health and safety of its players, as well as the public at large.

3. The NFL’s failure to exercise reasonable care in its duty increased the risk that the Plaintiffs would suffer long-term neurocognitive injuries.

4. The Plaintiffs reasonably relied to their detriment on the NFL’s actions and omissions on the subject.

5. Under all of the above circumstances, it was foreseeable that the NFL’s failure to exercise reasonable care in the execution of its duties would cause or substantially contribute to the personal injuries suffered by the Plaintiffs.

6. The NFL’s failure to exercise reasonable care in the execution of its duties proximately caused or contributed to Plaintiffs’ injuries.

7. As a result of the NFL’s negligence, the NFL is liable to Plaintiffs, and the Plaintiffs are entitled to, and seek, all damages allowed by applicable law.

COUNT XX
NEGLIGENCE
(As Against the NFL and NFL Properties)

8. The NFL and NFL Properties breached their duty to ensure that the helmets they licensed, required and/or approved were of the highest possible quality and sufficient to protect the NFL players, including Plaintiffs, and/or they increased the plaintiffs’ risks of the long term health consequences of concussive brain injury.

9. The NFL and NFL Properties breached their duty by licensing the Riddell Defendants' helmets, and approving and/or requiring the use of the helmets for the NFL players, knowing or having reason to know that the helmets were negligently and defectively designed and/or lacked an adequate warning.

10. As a result of these breaches by the NFL and NFL Properties, Plaintiffs suffer personal injuries as a result the long-term health effects of concussive brain injuries.

11. As a result of the NFL and NFL Properties' negligence, the NFL Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs, and the Plaintiffs are entitled to, and seek, all damages allowed by applicable law.